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Advocate of Peace.

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The Commission for World Peace.

The following joint resolution was adopted by the United States House of Representatives on June 20 and by the Senate on June 24:

"Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that a commission of five members be appointed by the President of the United States to consider the expediency of utilizing existing international agencies for the purpose of limiting the armaments of the nations of the world by international agreement, and of constituting the combined navies of the world an international force for the preservation of universal peace, and to consider and report upon any other means to diminish the expenditures of government for military purposes and to lessen the probabilities of war."

This resolution is the outcome of efforts made with Congress by the New York Peace Society, the World Federation League (a department of the New York Peace Society), the Peace Committee of the National German Alliance, and other organizations, in behalf of world federation, limitation of armaments, etc.

Resolutions were introduced into Congress at the request of these societies by Mr. Bartholdt of Missouri and Mr. Bennet of New York, asking for the appointment of a commission by our government to study and report on these pressing international questions.

The hearing on these resolutions given by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs developed much interest and clearly indicated that Congress was ready to take any practicable step possible in the direction of further international coöperation to assure the peace of the world and relief from the present heavy and growing burdens of armaments.

This resolution, though it is in part vague and indefinite, puts into the foreground the urgent question of limitation of armaments, the matter of an international naval police being only incidental. It is well, however, that it leaves to the commission the largest latitude, for it will be found that the problem of arrest of armaments is inextricably bound up with the various phases of the problem of world organization—an international parliament, a court of arbitral justice, etc.

The appointment of this commission by our government, if it is made up of the right type of statesmen, as it certainly will be, may easily prove to be one of the greatest steps that has ever been taken in the working out of the practical problem of world peace. It has been evident for a long time that no real progress toward the solution of the problem of limitation of armaments can be made until the subject has been first thoroughly and exhaustively studied by an international Commission. That was the difficulty at the Hague Conferences; no preliminary study of the problem of armaments had been made. A good deal of advancement has been made through the Hague Conferences toward the establishment of a regular parliament of the world, a complete system of arbitration and a high court of nations. But so far nothing practical has been done toward the removal of the immense obstacle which the current rivalry of armaments offers to the further progress of international unity and peace. This Commission has not been provided for a moment too soon. We shall await with interest the announcement of the names of the statesmen who shall compose it and the inauguration of their work. It will take at least two years, and probably twice that time, for them to be joined by similar commissions of other powers and to examine thoroughly and comprehensively the details of the immensely important problem that is intrusted to them